

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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## **WSP'S COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DIVISION HONORED FOR REDUCING TRUCK, BUS DEATHS -Death Rate Lowest Among Comparably-Sized States**

Olympia – The federal government has high praise for trucks and buses in Washington, and for the people who enforce safety rules for large commercial vehicles.

The U.S. Department of Transportation has just honored the Washington State Patrol's Commercial Vehicle Division with its Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Leadership Award. The award was presented because Washington had the lowest rate of fatalities involving large trucks and buses among comparable states for 2004, 2005 and 2006.

"The legislature provided resources, and the men and women of our Commercial Vehicle Division used those resources very effectively," said Washington State Patrol Chief John R. Batiste. "They are out at all hours and in all weather, crawling under buses and big rigs, to make sure they're in safe condition."

The MCSAP Leadership Award recognizes extraordinary efforts by states to improve the productivity of their commercial motor vehicle enforcement programs. 2006 is the most recent year for which fatality information is available. Awards were presented to agencies in small, medium and large states. Washington is considered a large state in the award judging.

"Almost all states have similar safety regulations for large trucks and buses," said Captain Darrin T. Grondel, CVD Commander. "Washington is safer because at all levels of government we've made safe highways a priority. We've chosen to strictly enforce rules related to truck and bus safety."

The CVD is committed to making Washington State highways the safest in the nation, and its efforts to do so aren't limited to enforcement. Education is also an important tool. "Our success is not just from a single event or person, but a partnership between many agencies, trucking associations, driving schools, and the trucking industry," said Grondel.

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The MCSAP Leadership Award was based on a number of criteria's ranging from data collection, enforcement efforts, state vs. national fatality rates and compliance reviews. The state size designation is based on the amount of funding a state receives from MCSAP.

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WSP Commercial Vehicle Division Statistics (data from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration)

Year	Fatal	Injury	Tow	VMT	Total Collisions
2006	56	146	1,225	.12	1,427
2005	52	160	1,120	.13	1,333
2004	55	166	1,157	.11	1,378

Notes

- 2006 National Average is .18 VMT
- VMT is based on 100 Million Commercial Vehicles Miles Traveled.
- Tow column is the number of vehicles towed away for disabling collision.